

**MINUTES
STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES
MARCH 23, 2001**

The regular meeting of the State Board for Community and Junior Colleges was held on Friday, March 23, 2001, at 9:00 a.m., in Room 507 of the Paul B. Johnson Tower of the Education and Research Center in Jackson, Mississippi.

Members present: Yvonne Brown, Brenda Collins, Veldore Heidelberg, Henry Hudspeth, John Junkin, George Walker, and Lawrence Warren.

Members absent: Sara Fox, Joanna Heidel, and Jimmy Murphy.

Staff in attendance: Dr. Olon Ray, Nancy Alley, Dr. Randall Bradberry, Becky Cade, Dr. Larry Day, Deborah Gilbert, Sandra Lucas, Dr. Wayne Stonecypher, Dr. Evelyn Webb, and Frankie Walton White.

Guests in attendance: Dr. Starkey Morgan, president of Holmes Community College and Dr. Bill Smith, Institutions of Higher Learning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman George Walker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

PRELIMINARIES

Brenda Collins gave the invocation.

Approval of Minutes of the February 23, 2001, Board Meeting

Veldore Heidelberg stated that on page 4 of the February minutes Joanna Heidel's name was listed as Heidelberg. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approved the minutes of the February 23, 2001, meeting with that correction.

Review and Approval of Agenda

Dr. Olon Ray asked that item IV. New Board Members – Oath of Office be deleted from the agenda. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to approve the amended agenda.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS/INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Walker introduced and welcomed all guests present.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Olon Ray discussed with the Board the issue of examining the SBCJC Off- Campus Funding Criteria. Mrs. Deborah Gilbert distributed a spreadsheet detailing the full-time academic vs. the part-time academic funding formula (Exhibit A). The handout also gave a breakdown of part-time academic student enrollment based on Full Time

Equivalency (FTE) for the East Mississippi Community College Golden Triangle Center, the Hinds Community College Vicksburg Center, and the Holmes Community College Grenada Center. Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave a brief overview of the current SBCJC Criteria to Establish a Campus or Center. Dr. Ray stated that SBCJC staff is currently working on revising the criteria guidelines and recommendations will be made to the Board during the April meeting.

Dr. Ray expressed his concern related to several actions by the management of the Mississippi Authority for Educational Television (ETV). One particular concern relates to the expenditure of state funds for a specific item of equipment. Dr. Ray serves on the ETV Board as a representative of the SBCJC. Upon a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Yvonne Brown, the Board voted unanimously to support Dr. Ray in his position to protect the public interest.

Dr. Ray reported on the Mississippi Affordable College Savings Plan (MACs). This program was developed to compliment the Mississippi Affordable Pre-paid College Tuition Plan (MPACT) and allows individuals to save money to help pay for incidental college costs other than tuition and fees. Contributions to the MACs and MPACT programs are Mississippi State Tax deferred until the student goes to college and then are taxable at the student's lower rate.

Dr. Ray announced the retirement of Mississippi Delta Community College President, Dr. Bobby Garvin. Dr. J. T. Hall will serve as interim president while the Mississippi Delta Board of Trustees searches for a new president.

Dr. Ray gave a brief report on the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Recognition Luncheon held on March 21, 2001. SBCJC member John Junkin attended the luncheon.

Dr. Ray distributed copies of the *Mississippi Professional Educators' Journal* (Exhibit B) containing an article on Mississippi's Community College System, Coahoma Community College's Report to the Community 1997-2000 (Exhibit C), a news release entitled "*Community College Leaders Support 3.7 Percent Revenue Growth Projections*" (Exhibit D), and a *Meridian Star* article by Sid Salter entitled "*Musgrove v. Legislature: Educators in Middle*" (Exhibit E).

Dr. Ray reported on the health of SBCJC member Jimmy Murphy. He related Mr. Murphy's regret at not being able to attend the meeting due to illness. He reported that former SBCJC member Patricia Puckett's husband Tim is being treated for cancer, and asked that the Board remember the Puckett family. Dr. Ray passed around a thank you note from Dr. Randall Bradberry's family expressing appreciation for the cards, flowers, and prayers offered in support during the recent loss of his mother.

REPORTS/ACTION

Status Report on Lawsuit

Dr. Ray gave a brief update on the lawsuit, and advised that Attorney Jimmy Robertson has filed an extension request with the Mississippi Supreme Court. The request has been granted and the response to the IHL Board's statements will be due by April 13, 2001.

MACJC Report

Mississippi Association of Community and Junior Colleges (MACJC) Chairman, Dr. Starkey Morgan requested that copies of the MACJC minutes be forwarded to Board members along with the SBCJC minutes.

Dr. Morgan gave a report on the week's activities at the Legislature. He expressed the Association's appreciation for the relationship between the MACJC and SBCJC staff in helping to support the MACJC Legislative Platform. The Association was asked to attend a meeting on Thursday, March 15, 2001, with the Lieutenant Governor and key Legislative leadership to garner support for the 3.7% revenue growth projection. Following that meeting, Governor Ronnie Musgrove met with the Association March 19, and presented his plan to hold the revenue growth projection to 1%, and asked the Association for their support. After meeting with the Governor, the Association voted unanimously to back the Legislature on the 3.7% figure. Dr. Morgan thanked Dr. Ray, Mrs. Gilbert, and Dr. Stonecypher specifically for their help during the Legislative Session.

Dr. Morgan reported that a special meeting is scheduled for April 24, and 25, 2001 to discuss athletic and legislative matters. The issue of out-of-state athletes will be addressed during the meeting at the Eagle Ridge Conference Center.

EdNet Report

Yvonne Brown reported on agenda items discussed during the February 26, and the March 19, 2001, regular EdNet Board meetings and a special meeting on March 19, 2001 (Exhibit F).

Mary Ann Bacon-Franklin has been appointed by the Governor to serve on the EdNet Board and in accordance with EdNet bylaws, will serve as the Chair. Ms. Bacon-Franklin is the President and CEO of First American Bank of Jackson.

A special joint meeting was held between ETV and the EdNet Board to review their special relationship, establish plans for future collaboration, and to identify areas of potential conflict. It was mentioned that ETV has been stepping out to negotiate with Worldcom instead of working with EdNet on tower matters.

The royalty check from Wireless One is continuing to decrease monthly.

The EdNet Board requested that a letter be drafted to ETV requesting that no negotiations be undertaken without the inclusion of EdNet.

Dr. Ray commended the new EdNet Executive Director, Martin Mangold. He suggested that the SBCJC might want to consider asking the PEER Committee to come in and examine the ETV operations.

Mrs. Brown thanked Board members who signed and submitted letters to the Federal Communications Commission in support of EdNet during the recent efforts to retain the Instructional Television Fixed Services (ITFS) spectrums.

Dr. Ray commended Mrs. Brown for her contributions in being diligent with the public trust as a member of the EdNet Board.

Finance Report

Mrs. Deborah Gilbert presented the items listed on the Finance Committee agenda for action.

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the April, May, and June 2001, General Fund Disbursement from Fund 2298 in the respective amounts of \$7,982,148, \$6,887,709, and \$6,887,708 (Exhibit G).

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Henry Hudspeth, the Board voted unanimously to approve the March 31, 2001, Education Enhancement Fund Disbursement from Fund 4080, Fund 4100, and Fund 4301 in the total amount of \$3,858,579 (Exhibit H).

Also, financial statements for Funds 2291, 3291, and 4300 (Exhibit I) were presented for the Boards' information. No action was required.

Mrs. Gilbert distributed copies of a spreadsheet showing a break down of the Conference Report of Senate Bill 3100, the SBCJC Administration Appropriations Bill (Exhibit J).

Program Committee

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher presented Program Committee items that required SBCJC action.

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to remove the following vocational/technical programs on probation inasmuch as their enrollment now exceeds the required number of ten students:

- Vehicle Mobile Equipment – Coahoma Community College
- Construction Equipment Operation – Copiah-Lincoln Community College
- Auto Machinist – Hinds Community College, Raymond Campus
- Plumbing – Hinds Community College, Rankin Campus
- Commercial Vehicle Operations – Pearl River Community College.

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by John Junkin, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to place the following vocational/technical programs on probation due to low enrollment:

- Practical Nursing – Copiah Lincoln Community College, Natchez
- Machinist – East Central Community College
- Machine Shop Assistant – Meridian Community College
- Construction Equipment Operator – Mississippi Delta Community College
- Industrial Maintenance – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Jeff Davis
- Vehicle Parts Operation – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, Perkinston

Welding – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, George County
Dental Assisting – Pearl River Community College, Hattiesburg
Heating and Air Conditioning – Southwest Mississippi Community College
Machine Shop Assistant – Southwest Mississippi Community College.

Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Veldore Heidelberg, and a second by Lawrence Warren, the Board voted unanimously to terminate the Food Products program at the Hinds Community College Raymond Campus effective July 1, 2001.

Workforce Education

Nancy Alley gave the Board an update on the Nissan project. She stated that the SBCJC is currently working with Hinds and Holmes Community Colleges to provide training for Industrial Maintenance personnel. Nissan plans to screen 240 individuals through the assessment/training process. Mrs. Alley stated that positive feedback from Nissan had been received with regard to the quality of the instructors and the quality of the equipment being utilized during the training process. Individuals from the Nissan plant in Smyrna have attended the Saturday training sessions held at Holmes Community and College have communicated that the training has far exceeded their expectations. Mrs. Alley briefly covered a time-line for hiring personnel. She also gave a report on a visit to the Smyrna Nissan Plant.

George Walker reported on two State Workforce Development Council (SWDC) committees he established to work on behalf of the SWDC, a public relations committee, chaired by Joe Jones, editor of the Mississippi Business Journal, and a legislative committee chaired by Charles Holder. Mr. Walker and Mr. Jones have been traveling the state meeting with editorial boards to present the concerns of the SWDC concerning budget cuts.

Mr. Walker reported that special meetings of the District Workforce Councils had been held and several resolutions were prepared and forwarded to members of the Mississippi Legislature, the Lieutenant Governor, and Governor in support workforce funding.

Mr. Walker also reported that the SWDC has invited the Deputy Assistant Secretary from the U. S. Department of Labor to meet with them in April to discuss avenues to better coordinate the Federal Workforce Investment Act with state workforce training programs.

Legislative/Revenue Situation

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher distributed an updated list of legislation that has a direct affect on the SBCJC and community and junior colleges (Exhibit K).

Proprietary School Report

Dr. Wayne Stonecypher gave a report on actions taken during the Commission on Proprietary School and College Registration meetings on December 14, 2000, and February 15, 2001 (Exhibit L). The next scheduled meeting is April 19, 2001 at 1:00 p.m.

Invitation for May Board Meeting at Coahoma Community College

Dr. Olon Ray conveyed an invitation from Dr. Vivian Presley, president of Coahoma Community College, to hold the May 25, 2001, SBCJC meeting in Clarksdale. Upon staff recommendation, a motion by Yvonne Brown, and a second by John Junkin, the Board voted unanimously to hold the May 25, 2001, Board meeting at 9:00 a. m. at Coahoma Community College.

Upon a recommendation by Dr. Olon Ray, a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Brenda Collins, the Board voted unanimously to authorize an appropriate resolution to Dr. Bobby Garvin for his years of service to Mississippi's community and junior colleges and commend him on his retirement.

Dr. Ray also distributed a copy of an IHL Press Release entitled "*IHL Leaders Seek Support for Higher Education Funding*" for the Board's information (Exhibit M).

Travel Authorizations

Chairman Walker asked for requests to authorize travel reimbursements for events other than regularly scheduled Board meetings. On a motion by Henry Hudspeth, and a second by Veldore Heidelberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve requests for reimbursement of travel expenses for the following:

John Junkin for attending the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Recognition Program in Jackson on March 21, 2001.

Yvonne Brown for attending an EdNet Board meeting in Jackson on March 19, 2001.

Veldore Heidelberg, Lawrence Warren, and Jimmy Murphy for attending confirmation hearings on March 20, 2001, in Jackson.

George Walker for attending SWDC meetings in Jackson on March 14, and April 11, 2001, a Pearl River Community College Symposium meeting in Hattiesburg on March 27 and 28, and the Mississippi Quality Awards Program on April 6, 2001.

OTHER BUSINESS

In other business, John Junkin stated that he felt the Board should seriously consider asking the PEER Committee to evaluate ETV current practices. Dr. Ray suggested that the Board defer taking action until the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.


George Walker, Chairman


Olon E. Ray, Executive Director